

IHC-D-113/4.15
21 November 1968

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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HANDLING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Security Agency

SUBJECT: COINS Experiment and Master Plan

1. Reference is made to your Memorandum, Serial N 1431, of 5 November 1968. The factors you have identified justify delay of the test and analysis phase of the COINS Experiment beyond the scheduled start date of January 1969. Therefore, the requested three month delay is approved.

2. There is no doubt that as time passes, the technicians and managers associated with the COINS system will develop greater competence in adjusting to, and accommodating, system changes. It is hoped that the requested delay will permit the various participating agencies to operate effectively with new hardware, and, in some cases, with new software by 1 April 1969.

3. It is certainly desirable, after the many months that have gone into the preparation of the COINS Experiment, to provide sufficient time for a thorough test. The COINS Test and Analysis Panel had previously scheduled a check-out period to determine the adequacy of its data forms and procedures when all participating subsystems become operational. This check-out was to be followed by a period in which forms and procedures would be analyzed and,

where necessary, modified. The Panel's schedule then called for three months of intensive, in-depth data gathering. Hopefully, the requested delay will permit the Panel to prove out their procedures in this interim and thus be adequately prepared to begin their intensive in-depth data gathering as soon as the systems become operational. The adequacy of a three month data gathering period will be assessed and the time for test and analysis extended if necessary.

4. The Intelligence Information Handling Committee/USIB will evaluate COINS and is proceeding to develop an evaluation plan. The details of this plan, including time phasing and relationship of the Test and Analysis Panel findings to other considerations such as cost, technical problems, and security will be worked out by the permanent IHC Staff and presented to the IHC for approval.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:



Chairman

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